

Conversation with 12 year old male, Virginia (Transcription)

START M35 A(2)

F: Twelve years old. START I will first start outby asking you if you remember life in Viet Nam? Do you remember anything at all?

S: I don't remember cause when I came here I was very little.

F: So when should I start, when do you remember anything.

S: See, when I was in Viet Nam, all I remember is when I play, you know, toys, you know, I have this little helicopter, a ball, and a neat bat. And I, you know, on rainy days, sometime the rain got real hard, I go outside and play in the rain with my brothers.

F: Do you remember anything about going from Viet Nam to here?

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S: No, not really. All I remember is I go by bus, plane, boat, somebody rescue us.

F: What do you remember about here, when you got here.

S: Well, our sponsor took us to church. I don't know the name of the church, I forgot.
<unintelligible text> live very far, they live, I don't know where they live, but they live pretty far.

F: Do you know who sponsored you, the people?

S: No, cause I don't really know. See, when I came here, I couldn't speak English. I try ask their name, they told me, but I couldn't pronounce it.

F: So when do you start speaking English?

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S: Well, two or three years ago, I still took ESOL. In about a year, that's when I start speaking English. Or two.

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F: So what grade did you go to when you get here?

S: First.

F: First grade. And what do you do in first grade.

S: Well, from what I remember, I color, and do math. My brother help me on it, cause I have problem with math, in multiplying, but we didn't do that until I was in third or fourth grade. But in adding he still help me.

F: So now, do you think you're better in math now?

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:S Yes, way better.

F: Let's talk about school ... After first grade, then you still have to study ESOL?

S: Yes, I go to ESOL until I was in fifth grade.

F: Fifth grade. What do you do in ESOL?

S: Well, see, the other time I went ESOL I do reading, and spelling, and after that, you know, I go ESOL only on subject I need help like social study and science. Any subject I need help I go to ESOL.

F: How do they tell whether you need help or not?

S: Well, see I don't, in social study, I couldn't read, what I mean is, they ask me question, and I couldn't understand the answer, so.

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F: Now do you understand?

S: Yes. Not very good, though... I still need help in social study only.

F: You don't understand what they say, or you don't understand the subject.

S: I don't, what I mean is, see, some of the words, I just read and I couldn't pronounce or understand.

F: So, do they teach you how to do it in ESOL?

S: Yeah, yes. But I don't go ESOL any more, but I still need help in social study. It's the only subject I need help.

F: What kind of grade are you making in social studies now?

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S: Not very good.

F: Like, do you think that, do you go and talk to your teachers if that you need help in social studies?

S: No, not real-, sometime, well I mean, I used to, but not any more. I keep trying. I don't want her to know.

F: Now what do you have most problem with in social studies?

S: Well, answering the question, what I mean is, the last time we have the home due is by writing report on the old stone age, new stone age.

F: And you couldn't do that?

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S: No, see, cause there was a lot of things, like home sapien or other things, I couldn't remember

F: Do you go to the library?

S: Yes.

F: And did you ask the librarian to help you find books and things like that?

S: Sometime I need help looking for it, but I usually look up for myself.

F: Do you think that books help you in doiggthe report?

S: Yes, a lot.

F: Do you think you're improving, though.

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S: yes, improving a lot.

F: What about like other, what other subject beside social studies do you have?

S: We have math, english, science, and I have to do a book report.

F: What do you like to talk about next?

S: I like talk about math.

F: Tell me about math. Why do you like it? Why do you think you're doing so well?

S: OK, not because I have good grades on it, see I used to have problem in doing math, but my uncle and my brother help me, now I'm learning a lot. But I don't know how to do percent, but I know how to do all the other kind of math like multiply, divide, decimal and like that.

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F: Do you think you're doing much better than the Americans in math?

S: Yes.

F: What about your math teachers? Do you like him, or her?

S: I like her.

F: Why do you think she's so good?

S: Well, she explain almost everything, when people need helps, she get another person, special person, help out that person, and if you need any help, or if you do something wrong, she tells do the whole problem out, if we don't know, she teach us.

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F: And what about your social studies teacher? Does he or she do the same thing for you?

S: Yes, she do the same thing. If I tell her.

F: Why don't you tell her?

S: I don't know, I'm, what I mean is, I want to try, by myself. If I can't, naturally, if I can't, then I tell her. Or sooner or later I will. This year.

F: Maybe you should... You also study science?"

S: Uh, what?

F: Science. Do you study science? What do you do in science.

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S: Well, right now, um have to do experiment, what I mean is, I have to do research on chicken, what I mean is, how we eat them, how we cook them, what does it look like, and we have to describe the chicken, what it look like when you cook or fry it.

F: So what did you find out about chickens in science, anything that surprised you?

S: Well, I havent', I haven't started yet, but I'm workin g on.it.

F: What's something that you have already done that you can tell me about.

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S: Well, see I haven't check out the book in the library cause I couldn't find my library card. I use to have one but I lost it. And my brother lost his library card, so I couldn't. So tomorrow I want to bring a letter that has my address and give it to lady and she will let me have a library card so I can check it and read it.

F: But didn't you have to do another project before chicken?

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S: Oh yes, the snow gauge and the rain gauge.

F: Snow gauge and rain gauge. Tell me about it, you know, suppose I don't know about snow gauge or rain gauge at all.

S: OK, see, you have to, bring a jar or something in metal of the thing or hang it on the tree and when k it rains and when it stop, you measure it and sayhow long you put it out there and how high it is, by centimeter.

F: So what kind of conclusion did you make? Did you find out anything?

S: Not really.

F: Do you like science?

S: Well, I like it a little, but not that much.

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F: So why don't you like science, it seems like it's fun, you don't really have to do that much work.

S: I really like science, but sometime I get, what I mean is, I have to do all, the experiment, but sometime I get headache because of the all math, I mean, I like math and <gap> of English better and sometime I like do that more than science. I don't know why. That's why I don't like science.

F: You like English better than science?

S: Yes.

F: You don't have any problem in English class, do you?

S: Not really, I don't.

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F: So, do you do readings a lot in English?

S: Yes, and I like it.

F: You like reading?

S: Yes.

F: OK, tell me some kind of book you would like to read.

S: Well, the other book I read was water witch, and I always thinking it was exciting adventure.

F: Water witch? Tell me about water witch.

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S: Well, see it was about this horse, right, it has great talents, and he got stolen, I mean, kidnapped, right, and at the end, they find out who it was, I don't know who it was, but the horse was in the cave, a mine cave, old one.

F: So nobody knew who kidnapped the horse?

S: They did find out, but I don't know who. I forgot.

F: Did you read it a long time ago?

S: I guess I read it, it was beginning of school.

F: Any other book that you read that you like?

S: I think that was the best one. And I read others, book, like comic book, but that was in summer when I have time. I like read comic books, or cartoons

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F: Do you watch TV?

S: Well, I used to a lot and I still do. But sometime now, I don't watch TV as I used to.

F: What do you watch though.

S: Well, I like, on Saturday morning I like to watch Spider man and his amazing friend smurf. They used to have the fantastic four and the thing, and I like the Super friends.

F: Do you watch anything beside cartoon?

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S: Yes, like Simon and Simon. Or, I used to like Superman on channel five but I don't anymore.

F: What do you, do you like shows like Simon and Simon better than cartoon or do you like to watch cartoon better?

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S: I like watch cartoon better.

F: Do they have new cartoons or is it always

S: Oh, it has new.

F: Sometime if they repeat it all the time

S: They don't really repeat it but they have the same thing, even though they show it again I still like it.

F: Do youlike to read books, not story, but nonfiction books.

S: Non fiction. I like nonfiction too. But I don't read them. What I mean is, I read them but I read half of them and then I return to the library. I don't know why I don't like nonfiction book.

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F: You like to read like science fiction?

S: Science fiction. I have rid, I have but I don't think it's that good.

F: So what's your favorite kind

S: What do you mean?

S: Mystery?

S: Mystery. I like mystery and adventure, stories.

F: What's a, tell me about an adventure book that you read, that you really liked.

S: I don't know, like <unintelligible text> for President. It's not that adventure, but they got in trouble and it was kinda funny. Even though it's not adventure.

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